

GOOD  
SERVICE

HITHERTO ILL  
REWARDED.

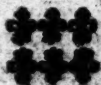
OR,

An Historical Relation  
of eight yeers Services for KING  
and PARLIAMENT done in  
and about *Manchester* and  
those parts.

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By Lieu: Col. JOHN ROSWORM.

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LONDON:

Printed in the Year, 1649.

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PRINTED BY THE

REWARD

An Historical Relation

of eight years services for KING

AND PARLIAMENT done in

the year 1642

1642

By John Rowson.

53:16



LONDON:

Printed in the Year 1642.



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TO THE  
HONORABLE HOUSE  
of COMMONS assembled in  
PARLIAMENT.

*Honorable Gentlemen:*

**T**His poore piece, would  
gladly begge an houre from  
You, at Your best leisure;  
In it You will see the mul-  
tiplied wrongs, and sad Ex-  
tremities of a faithfull stran-  
ger. The honour of doing me justice is  
reserved for You. When You read this,  
think such a one Your Petitioner, as ab-  
hors all faithlesse and indirect courses,  
and therefore must unavoidably perish  
without Your sudden succour.

It is in You to prevent what I cannot  
but fear; which done accordingly, the  
Earth shall not bear a more thankfull Re-  
membrancer, than

*Your most humble Servant,*

John Kinsman.





TO THE  
RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THOMAS Lord FAIRFAX,  
Generall of all the Forces in  
*England and Ireland.*

OLIVER CROMWELL,  
Lieutenant Generall of the Armies.

JOHN BRADSHAW,  
Lord President of the high  
Court of Justice.

*Right Honorable,*

**H** Would it were not my unhappines to see the day, wherein I should trouble You with such a sad story, as here I am bold humbly to present You. In it you will see, the faithfulness of a Servant, the Rewards of his Service, the Extremities he is in, and his encouraged hopes of finding relief from you.

A 3

His

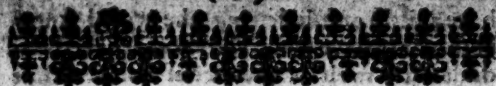
His Petitions, I hope, will shortly find  
your eyes, or eares, or both: Oh let them  
not want your hearts, of which I cannot  
doubt, if your leisure will suffer you to  
peruse this naked Relation. I trouble you  
no more, but with this onely addition,  
that I shall be ever a most thankfull Hi-  
storian of the reparation you shall afford  
me. And be,

Your most faithfull and  
humble Servant,

John Rosworme.

*Errata.*

Pag. 23. l. 19. Ratelies; r. Ratelies. p. 28. l. 8.  
unthankfullne, r. unthankfullne. p. 37. l. 2.  
frams; from p. 40. l. 7. that; r. to that p. 40. l. 6.  
othess; r. others?



A N

## HISTORICAL

Relation of Lieut: Coll:

R O S W O R M S Service and

Rewards, since the first beginning

*of these Warres.*

Then certainly, if ever, may a man  
 speak of his well done Services  
 when either a just Relation of  
 them, may be the remedy of his  
 present miseries, or a feeble ease  
 of his over-burdened heart: both  
 these at this time have an influence upon me;  
 glad would I be, if the former end might prove  
 successfull. And truly why should I not hope  
 it? But if Equity and Reason hath left *England*,  
 if I and mine must rot, starve, perish, famish,  
 that have been a means to preserve others from  
 such dreadfull ends, when they whom I served,  
 both can, and should, and may, and that most  
 easily, discharge their obligations to me, and  
 therein succour me. If it must be so, I shall yet

have a little ease in letting the world know both what I have done, and how I have been dealt with; in either of which if I blot one line with a falshood, I make no question, but some of my back-friends will labour to let as many see their teeth; as I desire may see the truth. Which as briefly and orderly as I can, I shall now begin.

**H**AVING at the beginning of the *Irish* Insurrection upon just discontents forsaken that Kingdom, I came into *England*, and particularly to *Manchester*, where I fastened my strangers home; I had not lived there three months, before the differences of this Kingdom were heightened into a War, and all parts were full of confusion. The Town of *Manchester*, amongst others, apprehending a manifest danger of ruine, from the Earl of *Darby* and his strength, who appeared for the King; having none that knew what belonged to Military affairs, either for offence, or defence, and having observed, and heard of me that I was bred up in Souldiery from my youth, well skilled in Fortifications, nor contemptibly furnished with all other military abilities: propounded and concluded with me a Contract under hand and seal, for half a year, engaging me by the utmost of my advice and skill, to endeavour the security of their Town, and engaging them-

themselves, in consideration of my service for that time, to pay me 30 li. we agreed accordingly. I must be bold to say, that my undertaking of this Service (though for a poore reward) as it was not small in it self; so it proved in the consequents as considerable, both to the weakning of the Kings party, and the strengthening of the Parliaments, as any action in that kinde, through the passages of that yeer: for (let it be considered) foure for one in that Town, if not more, favoured my Lord of *Darby*, and had publickly vowed to cut my throat, if ever I attempted any works to keep him out. The other party which favoured my undertakings, were full of fears, and confusions, not knowing which way to turn themselves: the Town in all it's entrances, open, and without any defence about it; A powerfull Enemy continually expected to come upon them, which within three weeks of our Contract fell out: surely these were circumstances, which might easily have made it lawfull to fear, and in that fear to decline a service of this nature: But being desirous to do the Town the best office, that either I could do, or they could wish, I put my life in my hand, I over-looked all dangers and difficulties, and undertook this Charge, which how I have discharged, let the world judge.

By the way observe, that the very next morning after my Contract, my Lord of *Darby* sent

two Gentlemen to me, with 150 l. as a Present from his Lordship, with an invitation to attend him at *Latham*. I was easie to see, what the drift of this kindnesse was. But 30 l. if backed with my promise, contract, or engagement, I have ever learned to value above all offers; honestly being more worth than gold. Returning therefore my thanks for the Earls noblenesse, and the money with my thanks, I dismissed these Gentlemen, and addressed my self to my trust.

My first aime was to set up good Posts and Obains, to keep out the Enemies Horse; which by the contrivance of a false Alarum, and by the help of the Countreys coming in, upon the ringing of the Bells backwards, devised purposely for this end, I safely performed, though many tongues had doomed me to death, if ever I attempted it. This was done upon Wednesday the 22. of *September*, 1642.

Having by this devise drawn some Armed men into the Town, I earnestly pressed, that they might be carefully provided for, heartned and encouraged; for I was confident, that within lesse then a week, that the Enemy would make a reall approach, and then these men would stand us; they took my advice; and my prediction fell out accordingly.

In that small time of preparation which I had, I fortified and barricadoed up every streets end, with the addition of Mud-wals, which  
were

were unfinished when the Earl came upon us, I advised how our men should be assigned through each part about the Town; But *Salisbury-bridge* the onely place of manifest dangers, greatest action, and least defence, upon others refusal, I undertook my self: though by my engagements I was not bound to fight at all, but to advise, and direct onely.

For this service, *Septemb: the 28.* I took with me 50. Muskettiers: we lay there till *Munday* without action.

*Munday, Septemb: 27.* I was necessitated, to send 20. of my Muskettiers to Captain *Bradshaw* at the *Dean's-gate* which never returned: that afternoon, though thus weakened, I was numerously assaulted; but through the goodness of him, who saved us, my 30 Muskettiers (having no *Brest-work* but a *Chain*) gave them a sound repulse.

The next day, *Septemb. 28.* the Enemy plaid at us with his great Peeeces, which being a strange noise, and terrour to my raw men, sixteen of them took their heels; the rest, some for fear of my drawn sword, others out of gallantry, resolving rather to dye, than to forsake me, stuck close to me, and to the safety of their Town. I was now few in number, but found some pitty from some other gallant hearts, who voluntarily came in to my assistance, making up my number 28. And this was my huge Army even

even then, when I had not onely many Enemies without, but dangerous temptations within to deal with. For the Enemy finding their assault not to take successe, nor their Cannons to terrifie us, as at the first, severall parleys were sent into the Town: whereof I gave my Souldiers a little notice, with encouragements to stand out, to the utmost.

Particularly, Wednesday, *Septemb: 29.* the Earl offered upon the delivery of some 100 Muskets to withdraw his Forces, and march away. To back this offer, Collonel *Holland* understanding my averfeness, earnestly pressed me to condescend to the motion, using withall these three Reasons. First, said he, we have neither Powder nor Match. I confesse I had onely six pound of the one, and 18. fathome of the other; but this was onely known to my self. Secondly, the Countrey men (said he, though falsly,) will stay no longer, their own houses and goods lying open to the mercy of the Enemy. Thirdly, said he, the Enemy is increased in strength. With these arguments did he not only urge, but almost command the embracing of the Earls Propofals. I related these things to my Souldiers, who unanimously resolving never to yeeld to my Lord of *Darby*, so long as I would stand out, and they had an inch of Match, or a shot of Powder: my heart leaped  
at



at such courage, and theretupon I peremptorily refused any terms whatever. Which so passionately moved Collonel *Holland*, that he left me in great anger and discontent. Immediately after this, Master *Burne*, an aged and grave Minister, came down to the Bridge to me, I told him Collonel *Holland's* language, and the dangerous concernment it tended to, I advised him, that if he desired to prevent the mischief which might ensue, he would immediately walk to the Deansgate, & from thence to the other Centuries, using his best encouragements to prop up their hearts against any dangers; and assuring them from me, that whereas the Enemy now, made no assaults, but where I was, I was confident with the help of Almighty God, and my few men, to defend it against their whole Power, nor should they ever enter at my guard. The heartied old man quickly left me, and followed my advice, with such gravity and chearfulness, that I cannot but ascribe much to it, as to the means of our preservation. Having thus prevailed for a refusall of all terms, sent in by the Enemy, our height of resolution to defend our selves to the utmost was returned to the Earl; who finding by our actions that we spake as we meant, within 3. dayes after, withdrew this siege, and gave me leave with about ten of my men in open view, to fetch away a great number of good Arms from them.

Thus

Thus was *Manchester* freed from the danger of her first brunt; wherein how farre I was instrumentall, if impartiall men cannot see, I will appeal from them to my Enemies; If either can deny me an acknowledgement, I am content the world should be blinde, and what I have done should be buried: But was the safetie of *Manchester*, the whole of *Manchesters* safetie? He that shall view in a Prospective the state of things at that time in the Kingdome, must yet see more, my Lord of *Essex* had then at that instant no great Forces, and those very remote from those parts. And surely if the actions of *Manchester*, had not sufficiently ballanced the Earl of *Darbies* Forces, or had that Town yielded either to his Assaults or Proposals, *Lancashire*, and all those associated Counties, had been at his service; and the whole Souldery therein at his disposing; which with his own Souldiers would have made up at least 9000 well armed fighting men, besides Horse. These joyned to his Majesties Body, who onely wanted Infanterie, would have made such an Army as in humane reason could not have found an opposition strong enough from all the Parliaments Forces, which at that time could be brought together. Those concerns I onely touch at, because, though my heart would break, if I should not let the world know, how I have served, and am served; yet I have

have no mind to draw my own picture. Onely one thing more let me adde, to do my self a little right, since none else hitherto have done. This Town was not onely a soyl to an assaulting Enemy, but a strength, help, and Magazine to all the adjacent Countie, as they stood engaged for the Parliaments service. But of this enough.

The Earl of *Darby* having afforded me a vacancy by his departure, I thoroughly set my self to raise up my Works of Fortification about the Town, during the residue of that half year, for which my Contract was made: In which I did not onely prosecute that to my utmost, by my directions, but having declared my judgement, that unlesse we did something speedily against the Earl, he would get head again, and do us new mischief: We thereupon gathered our Forces together, went out, and upon *Decemb. 24.* we shattered the Enemy at *Shewbent*, and the same night we took *Leigh* by assault, returning again within three dayes.

I was now so observed for my faithfulness and successe, that *Januar. 2d.* following I was unexpectedly honoured with a Commission from my Lord *Wharton*, to be Lieutenant Coll: of a Foot Regiment to Coll: *Ashton*, with which *Febr. 6.* I was commanded by Serjeant Major General *Seaton*, to joine with Coll: *Hollands* Regiment, and to attempt *Freslon*, which was accordingly

accordingly taken by assault, Febr. 8. And afterwards at Serjeant Major Generall *Seaton's*, and the Deputy Lieutenants request, was fortified by my direction.

I kept this Command of Lieutenant Coll: during the residue of my half yeers service contracted for with the Town of *Manchester*, which being now expired, they then observed, what they cannot without shame remember now, that I was both trustie, and successfull. They were loath to for-go such a servant, and therefore propounded new terms to me, offering me an annuity of 60 li. *per annum*, to be paid 15 li. quarterly, during the lives both of my self and wife, which should survive the longest, if I would by my advice prosecute the finishing of their Fortifications, and the ordering of all Military affairs conducing to the safetie of the Town, and upon all occasions be ready to give directions accordingly. At the same time also they with the Deputy Lieutenants desired me to accept of a Foot Company in the Garrison of *Manchester*, engaging themselves to maintain it, as long as it was a Garrison, and to pay me 40 s. *per week* in part of my Captains pay, and the rest was to go upon the publick Faith. I was pressed to accept this so importunately on their part, and by one reason so strongly within my self, which was, that by embracing the first of these Proposals, I should not  
leave

leave a desolate Widow without a poore subsistence, in case a warlike end should befall my self, that I layed down my Lieutenants Colonels Commission, and closed with their Contract; and is this circumstance nothing to chain these men to their promises? Those hearts certainly are deeply rooted in the Earth, which Reason, Equity, Conscience, nay and shame cannot pull out with such ropes.

My Engagement being past, I returned to my Charge, enlarged my Fortifications, left nothing unprepared, as time would permit, which might not make an Enemy a strong work to attempt me.

Whilest I was prosecuting these things, I was solicited, *April* the 1. 1643. by the Deputy Lieutenants to attend and assist our Forces, against *Wigan*; for indeed the Souldiers declared themselves discontented, if I went not along with them. I went accordingly, being loath that those should want any of my service, who had afforded me so much roome in their hearts; nor were we without a happy success in our attempt, for by a gallant assault, chiefly of Colonel *Ashtons* men, we took that strong Town in lesse than an hour: The Town being taken, to my best remembrance, we sent 500 Muskettiers of Colonel *Ashtons* men to secure *Bolton*, not far from us: Whilest the Town was taken, the Enemy having for a refuge ob-

served and fired the Church and people adjoining for their advantage, fled thither as many as could, and killed from thence, I dare say, more men, after the taking of the Town, than we had lost in the whole assault besides. Whilest we struggled with this difficulty, an Alarum was sent us from the Enemy, I went speedily with some few Horse to view the state they stood in, I found them onely three slender troops of Horse, who observing us to present a resolute face towards them, they instantly tried their heels, and gave us language enough in their disorder, to tell us we need not trouble our selves with such Enemies. I returned with what hast I could, with the truth in my mouth, but found Collonel *Holland* in such a shaking agony of fear, that he was ready to march away with all our Forces, consisting of 2000. Foot, most part good Muskettiers, the rest Club and Bill men, and to my best remembrance about 200. or 300. horse, besides eight Piece of Ordnance, and no want either of Ammunition or provisions. And surely with this Force I durst have seen the face of the greatest Enemies we had about us, though conjoynd at that time. Having this confidence, I earnestly desired him not to leave that Garrison so fearfully, that was won so gallantly; or if he would not stay himself, to leave me 500 Muskettiers, and one troop of Horse, and clear me of the

Prisoners

Prisoners, of which we had already good store, and I would entertain any attempt of the Enemy, and prosecute the rest of the service touching the Town, which was yet unfinished. His Answer was, Stay, that stay would, he nor any of his men, either would or should stay. I could almost have torn my flesh at this answer; yet suppressing my passion, with deep intreaties, and repeated perswasions, he was at length wrought so farre, as to promise a stay till I had forced those who had possessed the advantage of the Church steeple wholly to surrender; I having assured him, that I would either do it, or otherwise in one houre blowe them up: He gave me his hand to assure me of his stay. I thereupon first summoned them, but in vain. I prepared for execution, the event whereof startling the Enemy, they all surrendred, being 26. in number. But whilst I was receiving their Arms, and making preparation for their Convoy, Collonel *Holland* (for, alas, who can settle a trembling heart?) marched away with all the Forces, left me with one Company onely, (these also, fearing their inabilityie to deal with so many prisoners, forsaking me) engaged amongst 400. prisoners, many good Arms, two great Peeeces of Ordnance, in the midst of a Town where generally all the Towns-people were great Malignants. Being thus wholly forsaken by all, I was forced first to run to finde  
 B 2 my

Horfe, and then to flie for my life, which in  
 ſuch a danger was moſt ſtrangely ſaved.

All that adhered to the Parliament through  
 the whole Kingdome, and knew the circum-  
 ſtances of this aſſault, rejoyced at the taking  
 and ſuppoſed keeping of *Wigan*, as a conſider-  
 able ſervice; It being thought an impregnable  
 place, the Enemies pride, and our fear; onely  
 Collonel *Holland* ſeemed to be troubled that  
 I periſhed not in the action; and therefore find-  
 ing that I ſurvived his treacherie in leaving me  
 in the miſt of ſo many enraged Enemies, as I  
 before ſhewed; did the beſt he could to deſtroy  
 me and my family a worſe way. For preſently  
 upon the taking of that Town, as a noble gra-  
 tuitie for that ſervice, and yet ſaving my own  
 life, the 40 s. per week as part of my Captains  
 pay (the onely main pillar of my family ex-  
 pences) was by Collonel *Hollands* command,  
 ſubſcribing a ſtrands more for the countenan-  
 cing of his unworthineſſe, taken away from  
 me upon this pretence, that I had not taken  
 the Covenant, and was ſuſpended for above a  
 year, during all which time notwithstanding,  
 I was ſtill kept in my employment.

I cannot forget that about that time, and  
 many times ſince, I received ſeverall Letters  
 of acknowledgement from ſome eminent per-  
 ſons in the Kingdom, but I could feed neither  
 my dog, nor my cat with them, much leſſe my  
 horſes



horses, which I have kept alwayes at my own expences in the service, though afterwards upon second thoughts some of my charges were allowed me : but as for my family, who could not live upon the bare return of my expences, I was compelled to trie an unhappy experiment, whether I could feed them with I thank you. But enough of this.

*Wigan* service done, and undone, for which I was payed accordingly, I came to my charge at *Manchester*, whence not long after I was desired to ride to *Liverpool*, to direct the Fortifications there, I stayed there five dayes, without any reward.

*March 11.* after my return thence, I, besides many more out of *Manchester* and the County, was summoned up by Warrant to attend the Committee of Examinations upon the 15. of *April* next after, and to give in our Informations touching Collonel *Hollands* actions, where all this, and divers things more were justified to his face, as his perfidious dealings at *Wigan*, his actions touching Mr. *Peter Heywood* and his eagernesse in urging me to deliver up *Manchester*, when I kept *Salford-bridge*, at the first. But his great friends in the house prevailed for his escape, accounting it perhaps a sufficient punishment that he was so publicly shamed. Whereas if I had been guilty of the like, I am sure the Law of Armes would have condemned

and executed me for 'bad service', that are  
sought to be furnished for good.

About *July 4.* after, the Earl of *Newcastle*  
with no small Force made an angry approach  
towards *Lancashire*; our men were sent out to  
oppose his passage, nor was I thought fit to be  
present at this action: The issue was, our men  
were soundly beaten at *Wiked-hill* in *York-*  
*shire*, and pursued into *Lancashire* by the Enemy,  
who quickly also possessed himself of *Hallifax*,  
about 16. miles distant from us. When I had  
received this sad intelligence, I informed my  
self of the nature of the passes, by which the  
Enemy most easily could come in upon us; and  
finding them capable of a sudden Fortifica-  
tion, by the consent of the Deputy Lieutenants,  
I quickly helped Nature with Art, strengthening  
*Blackstone Edge*, and *Blackegate*, and manning  
them with Souldiers, to prevent the Earls dan-  
gerous approach, by which means being di-  
verted, like an angry storme with a gult, he  
went to the siege of *Hull*.

How considerable this diversion of so power-  
full an Enemy was, let reason judge; for cer-  
tainly, whereas he never reached his end at  
*Hull*, if he had gotten in amongst us, we were  
not onely in a manifest danger of being over-  
run by an enraged Enemy, but all parts within  
an ordinary distance, would have felt the  
smarting bitterness of his heavy hands.

1643. Jan. 19. following, I received order from Sir *Thomas Fairfax* to accompany his Forces to the relieving of *Nantwich*, at that time closely besieged by the Enemy. Where how I discharged the trust reposed in me, I leave to the testimony of his Excellency, whose name I shall alwayes remember with honour.

*Nantwich* relieved, I repaired to my home, where I have with my utmost skill nourished a company of vipers, who in recompence would eat my bowels.

From thence I was once more, Aug. 16. 1644. commanded by Sir *John Meldrum* to attend him to the siege of *Liverpoole*, which continued full ten weeks, I there served as Master of the Ordnance, gave directions for divers Works. In a word, I failed not in any thing which could be expected from me during the siege, it was surrendered Novemb. 4. For all which, and many other services, I am to this day unrewarded.

And now I come to my last actions, not a little conducing to the great shame and dishonour of *Manchester*, and the farther evidences of my own honesty.

After the siege of *Liverpoole*, the Parliament with a great Force layed siege to *Tork*; to raise this siege, Prince *Rupert* made an hastie and a furious march, with a very great Army; so that from the beginning of these Wars, there were

not two such numerous Armies, nor so fiercely resolved each against other, as met at length upon the occasion of that siege; Prince Rupert, well noting, that there were two wayes to raise this siege, which was the whole of his work and designe; the one by policy, the other by force, left neither unattempted; His politicall method lay no where so strongly for his end, as to corrupt me for the betraying of *Manchester*, wherein had he sped, *York* siege would have raised of it self. To effect this, Prince Rupert joyned my Lord Byron to himself in the transactions; and having the advantage of one Mr. Peter Heywood, by his means laboured with me for the betraying of the Town.

This Mr. Peter Heywood, who at this time sits at his ease, and enjoyes his own, whilst I for want of it endure extreme miserie: was a Captain in *Lancashire* for the Parliament, was often in our private consultations; and by holding intelligence with the Enemy, did us much mischief. He went off to *Chester*, *Oxford*, and other Garrisons of the Enemy, discovering our secret results. This being at length found out, and proved against him, he was secured by the Committee; and yet, without the consent of the rest of the Committee, contrary to an Ordinance touching such cases, released by Coll: *Holland*; two of his friends also being bound for his appearance, which never were question-  
ed,

ed, though he presently upon his enlargement went to the Enemy, & was afterwards thought the onely fit Instrument to work me to this treacherie.

His method was, first to take advantage of the injurious and most unthankfull unworthinesse, which the Town had used towards me, stirring those passions in me, which he knew were deeply provoked. This done, he offered in the behalf of Prince Rupert, that I should have a very great summe of money payed me in my hand, before my delivery of the Town, that I should have great preferments under Prince Rupert; besides the perpetuall obligations of affection and honour from many most noble friends, which I should look upon as purchased by the desert of such a seasonable and usefull service.

I was not so little a fool, though I never meant to be a knave, but I gave the propounder audience, gave some encouragement to the business, so much as to fish out which way the Enemy would lay his stratagem, and to secure my self from suspicion on their part, appointed them a time of receiving their hopes. And I must needs say, I could with more ease have sold them, man, woman and childe, with all they had into their Enemies hands, than at any time I could have preserved them. But, alas, I should then have been a *Manchester* man, for  
never

never let an unthankfull man, and a promise-breaker, have another name.

When I had found out the bottome of the plot, and searched out the method of their intention; Immediately I sent for six of the chief men of the Town, layed open the whole designe, told them how to prevent the danger, laboured night and day to get our Cannons to the Work: repaired our Mudwalls, as well as time would suffer. In a word, left nothing uncared for, which was necessary to entertain an assault. But the Enemy having got some intelligence of our actions by our treacherous friends, or home-bred enemies, when he had marched within one or two miles of *Manchester* at his appointed time, having notice of an hot entertainment, instead of *Manchester*, steared his course another way.

I must not forget here a new peece of wrong, *Manchester* and the whole Kingdom received from Coll: *Holland* at this time, that very morning which I had discovered the plot, Coll: *Holland* had summoned the Souldiers of *Salisbury* Hundred, consisting of almost 4000 Muskettiers to my best remembrance. He was desired by us at *Manchester*, that these Souldiers might quarter in or near the Town, that they might assist us in times of danger: But how were we answered? he disbanded these men, went away, left us to ourselves, there being no  
establisht

established Souldiers in the Town at that time  
 but that one single Company under my com-  
 mand, and some few of Major *Radliff's* Com-  
 pany, which, withall that could be perswaded  
 to look to the security of their lives and liveli-  
 hoods, made not up so many Muskettiers, as  
 to double our guards, much lesse reasonably  
 to enable us against a resolute Enemies at-  
 tempt. Nor was our distresse without many  
 aggravating circumstances, for besides the de-  
 cay of our Mudwalls, and the unmounting of  
 our Cannons, we knew not who to trust. The  
 infinite toyl, pains, and indefatigable industry,  
 night and day, which I used at this time, all  
 that had eyes in that Town saw, and all that  
 have tongues can witnesse; insomuch that the  
 ablest, and richest of those who had engaged  
 themselves for my Annuity, being overcome  
 with the consideration of my pains, and the  
 shining evidences of my fidelity, gave me deep  
 protestations and promises, That if ever the  
 hand of Providence should lead them to peace  
 again, and that Trading might once again  
 flourish, they would out of their own private  
 purses, enlarge my reward; particularly foure  
 of the six to whom I first discovered the Ene-  
 mies stratagem, specified their summes. Mr.  
*Johnson* promised me 10 li. Mr. *Gaskell* 20 li. Mr.  
*Hunt* 30. Mr. *Hartley* 40 li. yearly, as long as I  
 lived. But, alas, when our distresse was over,  
 which

which lasted a week, this smoke vanished. The issue was this, that whereas Coll: *Holland* (who ever hath been ( as you may see all along ) the bountifull rewarder, encourager, and furtherer of my good services) had suspended my 40 s. per week, part of my Captains pay, for a whole year, they drew a most importunate Petition to the House, for the Arrears of my pay, and continuance of it, for the time to come; recommending me also for some noble gratuity agreeable to my deserts and quality. This Petition begot me an Order for my discontinued pay, and a recommendation from the House to *Manchester*, for my Annuity : It was dated, *Sept. 4. 1644.* This being granted me, through much importunity, and great expences on my part, my 40 s. per week was payed me till *Octob. 9. 1647.*

I shall onely adde one more Evidence of my faithfulness to this ungratefull Town. The Summer after Prince *Rupert's* diversion, it pleased God to lay his heavy hand of plague upon us, which, ranging according to his direction, left no part unvisited; becoming indeed such a sad object, that our very miseries were as great a guard to us against our Enemies, as the cries of them were strong for a publick commiseration from our friends. The Pestilence in a little time grew so hot, that it not onely occasioned most of the richest to depart with their whole families,



families, but moved also the Warden and the other Minister to desire me with my family to withdraw not far from the Town, that, if occasion were, I might from thence readily serve the danger and extremitie, which might befall it from the Enemy: I think few men would have blamed me, if having stayed thus long, I had left the Town upon such importunitie. But conceiving my self as strongly tyed to look to the goods and estates of those that were gone, as one of the Ministers thought himself charged to look to the souls of those there remaining, I waved all fear, and resolved personally to serve my trust, leaving my death to him, that once gave, and often before had spared my life. And truly my resolution herein, I must be bold to say, was not a little courtesie to this Town; as both I foresaw how things would, and afterwards did come to passe. For Major *Raecliff* and his Company having withdrawn, and quartered themselves without the Works for fear of the plague, my self having onely 12. Muskettiers, whose hearts stood fixed to run my hazard, the poore, many of whom were at the pest-houses without, and the rest within, entred into a dangerous combination, with about a dozen of the middle sort of men, that were within, to take advantage of our weakness and nakednesse, and to seise upon the whole riches of the Town, which at that time was

was very great. In the prosecution of this villany, they wanted neither secrecie, unanimity, nor craft. Not secrecie, for till their designe was ripe, I had no knowledge of it; which argues also their unanimity. As for their craft, a man would have thought some minor Jesuite had been of their counsell. They had prepared, forsooth, a kinde of Declaration, zeal to the safety of the Town, sollicitousnesse to see it so naked, and unfit to oppose an Enemy, were the embroidered coat of this pretty brat; and to make up all, they added a resolution to stick to King and Parliament, and to use the whole fruits of their attempts to serve the Publick: and I, forsooth, had the honour to be nominated their chief Commander. I had at this time taken phylick, but my Serjeant, Mr. Beirons the elder, having discovered the plot to some in the Town, who quickly came to advise with me. We with some few others, which we sent for, agreed upon this as the suddenest remedy, that the twelve chief conspirators should be severally sent for into one roome, at one time, and afterwards severally examined; which accordingly was done; their examinations remaining still upon fyle in *Manchester*. Whilst these things were doing, I gave order for my 12 Muskettiers privately to attend me, with whose assistance having secured these heads, the conspiracie vanished into smoke, which other

otherwise would have set all on fire.

The plague being ceased, and the chief inhabitants of the Town returned, a man would have thought that this last Evidence of my faithfulness alone, should have wrought these men, if not to thankfulness, yet to honesty: But who can vvhite a Blackmore? or make a rope of sand? Their brows vvere brasse to all intreaties, their affections flints to all reason, their hearts rocks to all pitie, and their consciences adamants to all obligations, even still my Annuity vvvas kept from me; vvvhich aggravating my many debts and vvants to the height of extremitie, in hope of relief I repaired to London. Where prevailing not for a redresse, in three quarters of a yeers attendance, vvith my boy and vvvo horses, at very great expences; at length (it being true, that *Magister art is ingeniiq; largitor ventis,*) it came into my head, to print an angry Paper, the Copie vvhereof I have here inserted.

*A sad Complaint of Lieutenant Colonel John Rosworme, against severall of the Inhabitants of Manchester.*

I Post and send abroad this to the deserved shame of the Townsmen of Manchester, vvwhose names are under vvritten, vvwhose heathenish, most unvvorthy and perfidious dealings,

ings, if I could, I would publish to the end of the world : My complaint is this, let all Readers judge, When the Town of *Mancbeſter*, at the beginning of theſe Wars, was in a moſt deſperate danger and extremitie by reaſon of the Enemy, I (who have been a known Souldier in Forrain parts) was then looked upon as a ſerviceable man for the ſafety and preſervation of that Town, and was accordingly compounded with, by thoſe under-written in the towns behalf, to fortifie the ſaid Town, and, in a word, to mannage all Military affairs tending to their ſafety and preſervation: In conſideration of which, they obliged themſelves under hand and Seal, to pay me quarterly, every quarter of a year 15. li. during the lives of my ſelf or wife, which ſhould live longeſt; adding withall ſuch Solemn Proteſtations and Vowed Engagements of farther thankfulneſſe, that, conſidering their profeſſion of holineſſe above other men, it might eaſily have wrought an hope in a credulous man, that they would be more then honeſt. But all that glittered was not gold; for ſee the iſſue. I diſcharged my Engagements to the utmoſt of a man, yea to the utmoſt of their hopes. Their Town was ſecured, themſelves preſerved, through Providence, my great pains, induſtry, and uncorrupted Faithfulneſſe. In the proſecution of my truſt, I incurred frequent and moſt manifeſt dangers  
of

of my life, from which my escape hath been a  
 matter both of their wonder, and their joy; of  
 all which I have their own acknowledgements  
 to produce, and testifications of their thank-  
 fulnesse so deep, as if they had looked upon me,  
 as the onely earthly Landlord of their lives:  
 All this notwithstanding, these men (if they  
 deserve so good a name) conceiving themselves  
 to have no other use of me, have for this 12.  
 months with-held from me my dearly earned  
 stipend, broken their Covenants, slighted their  
 Engagements, opposed all fair motions, and  
 frequent entreaties of my own, refused all Mi-  
 nisteriall exhortations, earnestly and often  
 pressing their dutie herein upon them; despised  
 all requests and letters of publick and private  
 eminent persons, not onely minding them of,  
 but reproving them for their backwardnesse, I  
 may say perfidiousnesse; so that, if I were not  
 beholding to a more bountifull Providence,  
 then what runs in their honesty, I and mine  
 might rot, perish, starve or famish, whom by  
 their obligation, as well as the Common ob-  
 ligations of Equitie, they are bound to relieve;  
 what ingratitude this is, let the world judge;  
 yea, judge your selves, ye worst of men; did I  
 hazard life, limbe, and all that was dear to  
 me, and do the richest of you grudge me a few  
 shillings by the year, to buy me and mine food:  
 is this your equitie? have you engaged your  
 selves

selves solemnly for my satisfaction, and now do you deny it me to my destruction; Is this your honesty? would you indeed murder me, my wife and children after the highest manner of cruelty, that under God have been a means of preserving you alive? What? is no other death fit for me but famishing? have you no easier way to shew your unthankfulness then that? are you so hard-hearted to a stranger, so perfidious to your obligation, so unthankfull for courtesies, such obstinate enemies of reason and equitie? do you professe your selves ashamed to see me, and can you read this without blushing; ye Adamants, can ye indeed be so flintie? Well, be so for ever, finde out the utmost bounds of ingratitude, be matchlesse in your treacherie; set the Devill himself a Copie, that you may be the most infamous men of your generation, and when you have done, triumph in this; That your Consciences are made of such steel, as can be touched with nothing. As for me, the utmost of your cruelty, shall I hope, reach no farther then to cause me to be angry with my self, that I have ever hazarded my blood for such despicable earth-worms: But withall let me tell you, I hope I shall finde out a way to make you pay me against your wills, nor shall your dishonestie for ever help you.

To conclude (for I know though your brows be Basilisco-proof, yet you could be content, I should

should end this Language;) if ever you stand in need of the faithfulness of a man again, may you meet with none that will trust you, better then you deserve, for since you have in my case, manifested your best profession to be but hellish dissimulations, what man after me, will ever credit you? who will ever free me from this reproach of being the last credulous fool that ever you shall abuse? If any thing here seem either to your selves or others too sharp, I shall shortly cleer your eye-sight, and present you, with a larger Looking-glasse wherein you shall see (if you will not shut your eyes) Circumstances enough, which will more fully discover your bruitishnesse not onely to your selves, but to all that will take the pains to observe your most detestable unworthinesse, so farewell.

The Names of those unworthy Covenant-breakers in *Manchester*, who have sealed and subscribed the Covenant in behalf of themselves and the whole Town

*Rich: Heyrick*

*Will: Radelyff*

*Rich: Haworth*

*Rouland Hunt*

*John Hartly*

*John Gaskell*

*Tho: Lancashire*

*Richard Lomax*

*Edward Johnson*

*Lawrence Owen*

*Robert Lewer*

*Nich: Hawes*

Edw: Holbroock  
 Roger Worthington  
 Richard Meare  
 Henry Bradshawe  
 Thomas Ellingworth

Mich: Buxton  
 Rap: Waller  
 Hugh H Williams  
 William Dean  
 Thomas Mynshall.

London; May 9, 1648.

The shame of this Paper, which the bitterness of my condition, and the unworthines of their dealing, forced me to Print, together with the concurrence of the *Scottish* advance, from which they feared danger, occasioned them to recall me from *London*, and to pay me my then Arrears.

But this storme being over, they again most shamelessly slighted their Engagements; and therefore being utterly worn out with the vexation of their usage, and finding nothing to work, I sent them a Letter dated, *Octob. 11. 1648* desiring their leave that I might seek employment where I could, and look after a means of subsistence elsewhere, since their hearts were such, that they could suffer me, my wife, children, and family to perish before their eyes, who for six or seven yeers had been an evident Instrument of keeping them, their wives and children from the same end. For this purpose I sent them inclosed the form of a testimony to be subscribed; the result of all was, I neither could get pay, nor testimoniall: what is this, but as much as to say in other words, For all the



the good service you have done us, we will keep you here, and furnish you?

I have now done my story, what's behind must be for Application. And first I shall begin with those undertakers of *Manchester*, who first engaged me; and first, and last, and all along, have almost equalled my services with their wrongs.

My Masters.

For it hath been my unhappinesse to have been your servant. Give me your leave a little.

(If you have any roome in your memories for any thing but debts) you may well remember the confusions, fears, and extremities, you were in, when you first desired my service; what a strong Enemy you expected from without, how divided within, how weakly provided, and unable against either; insomuch that my Engagement in your service, was as much the wonder of your Enemies, as the preservation of your selves so far as may be ascribed to a means. Having undertaken your service, you may remember, if you please, the dangers I exposed my self to, beyond my covenant, the offers which I refused from many, the difficulties I ran through, the vigilancy and care which I used, the faithfulness which I discharged, my sticking to your estates during the plague, when most of you (which was strange) forsook them your selves; and the success of

all through my whole service. You may remember too, what me thinks you have forgotten; that I had your hands and seals for a poore annuity, besides the voluntary additionall promises from some of you, of 10 li. from another, 20 li. from another, 30 li. from another, 40 li. yearly as long as I lived, flowing from the sense of my care, and faithfulnessse, once visible in *Manchester*, but now removed beyond the *Indies*. But, I pray you, my masters, suffer your servant to reason with you: Was I once thought worthy of so much? And now have I not deserved my poore wages of you that have kept for some of you such vast estates? Do you still grudge me the yearly proportion of a few shillings, that have kept for you so many pounds, so many thousands? Have I exposed my self for your safety, to the danger of sword, and plague, and will nothing content your boundlesse ingratitude, unlesse withall you throw me and my whole family into the jaws of famine? You have been thought men of conscience, why could no ministeriall exhortations prevail with you, often propounded, and urged upon you for that purpose? You have professed your selves the Parliaments devoted servants, why was their recommendation slighted? You would not be thought uncivill, why were my Lord Generals Letters so little regarded? You would not be reported

as shamelesse, why did shame force you to a piece of your duty, upon the sight of my printed Paper inserted before? whereas now again like the dogge, you are turned to your vomit. You complain of others for want of justice, why have you used so little to me? You pretend a great deal of care of your credit, why have you suffered your words, hands, and seals to be wounded? Religion bids you be courteous to strangers, why have you dealt thus unmercifully, yea most cruelly with me? who though a stranger, have been more then a brother, and have then stuck to you, when for fear you have fled from your selves. Equity, reason, yea self-love, requires you to be thankfull for courtesies, having forgotten all these obligations, I favour you too much if I say you are out of your wits, for then you will be somewhat excused; whereas, if you will be thought otherwise, you cannot. When your fears had rendered you heartlesse, my undertaking your service, and lively encouragements revived you; when you have been compassed with your enemies, my service hath been your freedom; when you have slept, I have been watching for you; when you have stretched your selves upon your soft beds, I have made the cold earth my lodging; when instead of cloaths to keep me warm, I have been wet round with the rain; I did not envy these things to you, I did not re-

use these things for you. I might say much more, if I were not resolved to have this advantage of you to be able justly to say, I might have said more if I pleased.

But how have you dealt with me? When in my distresses I have made my moan to you for my dearly earned stipend, your ears were deaf, your hearts pitilesse, my wife and children could not finde the way to your bosomes, though you and yours have not wanted large roome in mine? What was your meaning, were you ambitious to be the most notable men in all the earth for cruell unthankfulnesse? If so, I will do my best to procure you the honour, as far as my few languages will reach, you shall not fail; or was it because in your actions to me you would shew your selves honest men? You have done it indeed, ask your consciences else, and they will tell you so; because none else will: Or was it your purpose to force me to flie the Kingdom, and to leave my wife, and children to your Parishes charitie, when both the husband of that wife, and the father of those children could finde so little of your justice, equitie or honestie? Perhas 'twas this: but yet me thinks having some subtile of apprehension, you might have thought, that he that was no traitor to your bowels, would not be a traitor to his own. Sure then your ayme was I should be driven to rob by the high-way, and

and violently to take from others; what should be the support of my familie. And yet me thinks you could not think this, seeing you well knew that I have ever been carefull of my honestie even to you, who have failed to me? how then should I be injurious to such; whom perhaps I have never seen, when I have not wronged you, that have so sore provoked me? You know I have ever laboured to keep others from plundering, how then should I practise it my self? But perhaps you are still of that judgement however you use me, that certainly some miracles would be manifested from heaven, before a man that had served you so faithfully should want, though you should give me nothing: If these were your thoughts, then by your confession, I must look for miracles, before you will be honest; and if that follow after, 'twill be the greatest miracle of all: if none of these are right guesses, for my part I am at a losse, help me out, and then you shal hear more; till then I leave you.

Having done with these, I shall keep that order in my debates, which I observe in my wrongs. *Manchester* was first, and the *Parliament* in its late state was next, to them must I be bold to say a little.

To

To the Honorable House of COMMONS,  
 sitting till the year 1648. and particular-  
 ly to the Members for *Lancashire*.

*Honorable Gentlemen :*

**Y**OU need not be put in minde, I hope, that  
 whatsoever I did for *Manchester*, reacht at  
 length to your selves, & from you to the whole  
 Kingdom ; It hath been easie for many impar-  
 tiall eyes to see, that my actions at *Manchester*  
 in the beginning were the verie hinges, where-  
 upon the War turned ; for had not my Lord of  
*Darby*s Forces been boldly opposed, and at  
 length utterly crushed, by the activity, bold-  
 nesse, and successe of those Forces, with which  
 I alwayes personally served ( where mention-  
 ing my self alone, I desire not to rob any other  
 of their due honour ) half an eye may see in  
 humane reason, what condition you had been  
 brought to, successe at first being that which  
 both animated, and encreased your friends.

I must not here forget, any point of right or  
 honour which was shewed me, for I suppose  
 that publick testimony, which was given of  
 my stirring, vigilancy, faithfulness, and suc-  
 cesse begot me unexpectedly my Lord *Whartons*  
 Commission to be Lieutenant Collonel to  
 Coll: *Ashton*. Which command how I used, till  
 I layed it down, I have touched before, and  
 can confidently leave to any that knew my  
 actions.

actions. But I beseech you forgive me, if as modestly as freedom forced from misery, will give me leave, I speak something also of yours.

Having laid down my Commission of Lieutenant Collonel, I degraded my self into a Captain, that I might be the fitter to discharge my trust to *Manchester*, and to attend your service there, where it was of most concernment. I was content to take 40s. per week in part of my Captains pay, and the rest upon the Publick Faith; and this with the poore addition of my *Manchester* annuitie, was the whole livelihood of my wife, children and family. But as *Manchester* suspended the one, so your selves at length suspended the other; upon which being deprived of all means of subsistence, I addressed two Petitions to your House, all which were worn out in some of your pockets, and my self at length after almost 12. months expectation, dismissed with this, That my Petition was but a private businesse, from a private man, and the Parliament would not look upon it; but yet I must acknowledge, I was allowed from you a little money, not so much as would bear my charges of attendance.

Forgive me now a little freedom, when I did you service, I was a publick man, was I altered because I came in my great miseries to petition for my wages? especially having forborn you so long, that I ranne in debt for the bread

bread which I did eat, as still I do? Or if I were not that *Rosworme* which served you, as actively, faithfully, and successfully as any, must I, because private, perish for want of justice, when I hope you will grant, I should not famish for want of pitie? Private men that were to pay money, I hope were looked after, why not private men, that were to receive? If the receiving were a publick advantage, surely paying was a publick duty. But did no private men finde a redresse from you, for almost 12 months? Nay did no private men in this time receive extraordinarie gratuities, which I also was one recommended for, though as yet I want my pay? you can tell. Had you not one half houres time to consider my deep extremities, able, if I, and they were well known, to move a stone, what? not so little time for me? that have spent dayes, nights, months, yeers, so many, so much time to support that power and wealth by which you were to relieve me? I have observed a Motto about your *English Coynes*, *Justitia firmat thronum*, the want of this is the mother of all the changes and revolutions in the world, the corruption of this unsetled the Kingdome at first; the corruption of this pull'd down your selves; and the corruption of this, if not seasonably looked into, will ruine all. Were they not your solemn professions at your first sitting, that having felt the weight of oppression



tion and injustice from others, the bent of your  
 counsels and actions should be, that Justice  
 might be impartially done to all? Did you not  
 with professions to this purpose, fish for hearts,  
 and catch thousands? and could you so easily  
 neglect the doing of justice to one of your faith-  
 full servants, especially when it would have  
 gotten you the additionall honour of another  
 vertue, viz: shewing of pitie? But you were bu-  
 sied about the Publick; Be it so, yet me thinks,  
 you could not but see, what I heard a mean  
 man once observe, that the administration of  
 private justice is a publick good; how else  
 could that be true, that *Justitia firmat thronum*,  
 But I was a stranger? I pray you how many of  
 your own Nation betrayed you, whilest I stood  
 firm? How many of them would have betrayed  
 you, when they could not; whereas I would  
 not, when I could, though I had strong tempta-  
 tions? How few did you better service moving  
 in no higher a sphere? How many forsook you  
 upon easie trials, when I stuck to you against  
 all? If it be a granted principle that I must be  
 slighted, because a stranger, yet sure I should  
 have been regarded, because a good servant:  
 what could you imagine I should do? I had  
 spent, sold, and pawned, all that I had, except  
 what I onely meant to part with, when I part  
 with life. I was, and am still, as deeply plunged  
 into debt, as my friends would give me leave.

I had a wife and children, which though you would not look after, yet I could not so easily forget, how did you think I should subsist? How should these be fed? I had no skill to trade, no art to begge, no heart to rob; did you ayme that my miserable necessities should force me that which my soul loaths? Did I hate in my heart, forbear in my practise, restrain in my Souldiers, all kinde of plundering, even then when we had taken Towns, and might have done it under the colour of war, all which tended not a little to your honour, that you had such a servant; And could that be thought good dealing, to necessitate me, for want of my deserved pay, to raise provision for my deare wife and children, by my violence to others: But you knew not my wants, one of your number, who, it is to be supposed knew your mind, said I was a private man, and you would not look upon my Petition, as much as to say, you would not know them. Besides when one had done good service, to a State long since, you know that a voluntary inquirie was made; what honour had been done to the man for all this? And indeed what honour? yea what justice? yea what injustice, rather? For, alas, how can I say lesse, under the sense of such a languishing condition; the very grief whereof, being beyond the anguish of all my wounds, hath lately thrown me into an extreme sicknesse,  
and

and that to the edge of my grave: I shall much wonder, if now at length, upon the view of your failings, I should not see my redresse, and know my helpers, which accordingly succeeding, I shall not fail to give the world as thankful a testimony as in this I have given true.

*John Rosworthe.*

*F I N I S.*